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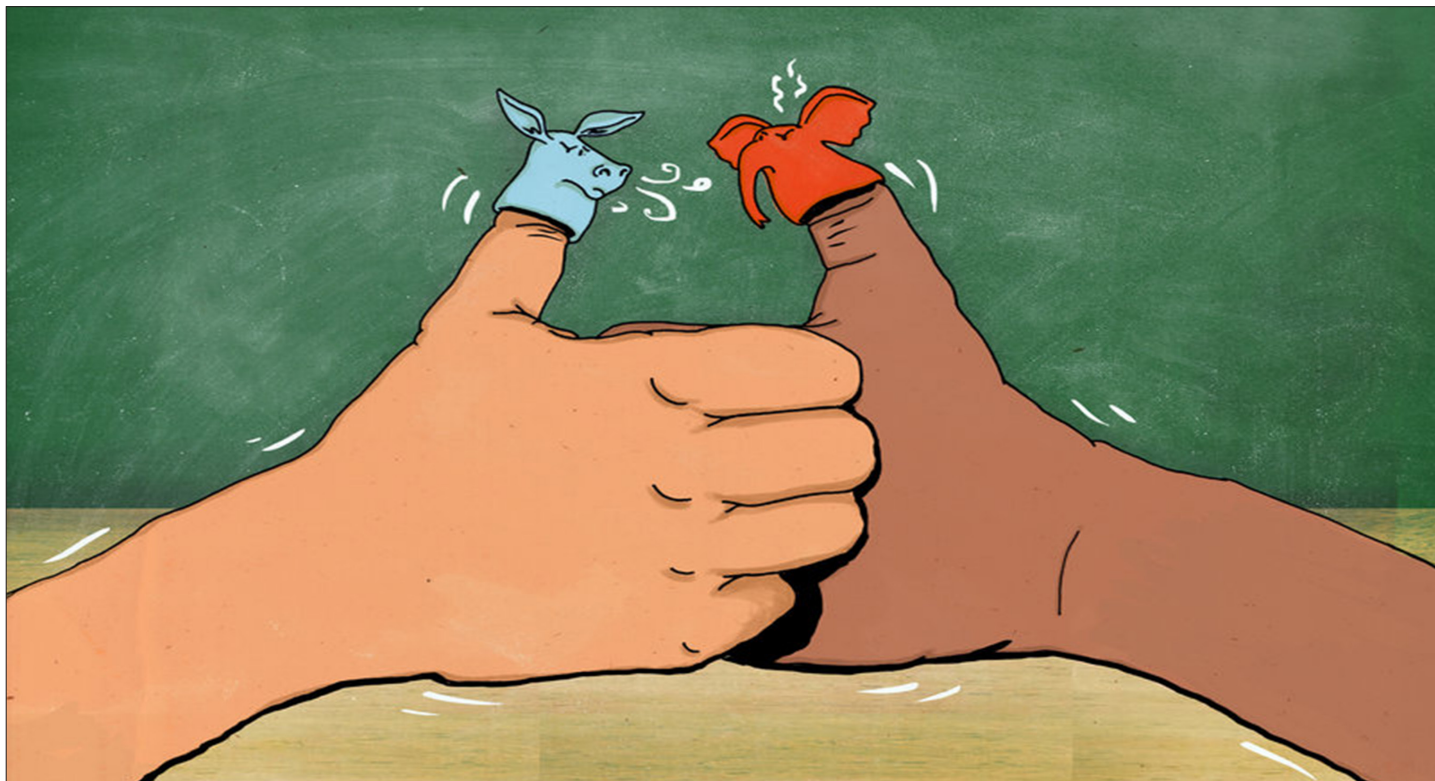


The Collegian

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

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Saint Mary's professors handle disparate political views within the classroom



COLLEGIATE SEMINAR is an integral part of the Saint Mary's curriculum. As the political divide worsens, professors look for a way to handle these disparate views. (Courtesy of LA Johnson/NPR)

BY KEVIN BASMADJIAN
NEWS EDITOR

Here at Saint Mary's, Collegiate Seminar is part of the Core Curriculum and every undergraduate student is required to take Critical Strategies and Great Questions, Western Traditions I, Western Traditions II, and The Global Conversations of the 20th and 21st Centuries. There are also two optional Seminar courses students can choose to take: Questions of Citizenship, and Multicultural Thought.

One issue that all professors — especially those currently teaching Seminar — have to keep in mind is how to cope with disparate political viewpoints within the classroom. In this era of politics, the nation is seemingly composed of enclaves with dug-in viewpoints, and Saint Mary's is no exception. From Seminar discussions, nearly all students can relate to withholding their own political or social views out of fear of being ostracized by their peers.

To try and mitigate this problem, Seminar professors are all required to undergo training, and according to Ellen Rigsby, "there's a formation process that you go through — you have to do a number of workshops and such to be qualified teach." Rigsby is a Communications Professor, as well as the head of the Collegiate Seminar Department at SMC. She hires and retains faculty for the Seminar program and also handles student complaints and concerns. In terms of the official policy of the Colle-

giate Seminar department in handling disparate viewpoints, Rigsby says, "there's not a policy about that because the approach to the material that you teach is protected by academic freedom, so professors have the right to interpret their discipline, you know, the way they see fit. So faculty will do it in a lot of different ways, and the same is true in Seminar, but because Seminar is about providing a teaching space for students to develop their own thought, faculty are discouraged from bringing their personal interpretations to text because if that's what they were doing, it might as well be a lecture class, like 'Okay, so here's Aristotle according to Ellen, you know.'"

Rigsby comes from a background of political and legal theory, and she's noticed a wide shift in political and legal culture. She states that originally, "there is a culture, for the most part, in political science and legal studies where the description of politics and law is supposed to be presented neutrally, because in political science, you're talking about some kind of governmental entity as a system, so you're trying to be objective about what happens in the system, and the things that happen in the system happen for whatever political party is in power, and in the law, you're supposed to be arguing from legal principles."

She continued on to say, "But as you may be aware, since the mid 1980s, the legal profession has unintentionally become much more politicized — it's much easier to say 'oh this Supreme Court justice came from

the left and this one comes from the right,' whereas before it just wasn't clear. People's commitments were to particular forms of interpretation of the law that did not map neatly onto political disagreements. Now, those commitments to interpretations of the law are almost always mapped onto political agreement so it's very hard just to talk about the law as being neutral anymore."

At the same time, most students can find it difficult to speak up if they feel their professors don't share their viewpoint. Michael Nathanson is a Professor of Mathematics and one of the numerous faculty who rotate in to teach Seminar. Nathanson says, "I think the challenge for faculty is doing it in a way that's not perceived as being either aggressive or too combative. If I find the Seminar teacher and I just let the conversation go, and I don't say anything for half an hour, and then all of a sudden I just feel like I have to intercede and say 'can we just take a step back for a quick second.' It's going to be noticed, and usually what I try to do in that case is have the moment, and then follow up afterwards, at the end so that you know, say 'hey, just to have a quick check-in about what just happened there...' once we've had a chance for the conversation to run its course. But it's important for faculty to be actively thinking about what they can be doing to encourage people whose opinions might not match what we perceive to be the majority. To make sure they have a place to say it and Saint Mary's students are

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Gaga & Cooper's "A Star is Born" Far From Shallow

BY ISABELLA FERRANTE
STAFF WRITER

"A Star is Born," starring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga, was a movie that had me enthralled from start to finish. The movie tells the story of a musician, Jackson Maine (Cooper), and how he falls in love with a young woman named Ally (Gaga). Ally was an aspiring singer, and Maine was able to use his fame to push Ally into the spotlight. Cooper's

character struggled with alcoholism throughout the film, and the movie told the story of Maine's decline while Ally rises to fame.

Not only was Bradley Cooper the star of this movie, but it is also his directing debut. I thought that Cooper did a wonderful job in this movie as an actor. He took on the role of the troubled rockstar very well. Although the time period of this movie was not very clear, Cooper's character development of Jackson Maine was well-developed, and the

audience was able to see how he changed throughout the movie. I was also able to see Cooper's vision as a director. Cooper spent years conceptualizing this movie and how he wanted every aspect to be perfect. The time and effort he put into this movie was very evident. I enjoyed how Cooper was the one singing and performing the movie's songs. Cooper's performance was authentic, and he had me rooting for his character the entire movie.

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THE INSIDE PAGE



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*"To act upon one's convictions while others wait,
To create a positive force in a world
where cynics abound,
To provide information to people when
it wasn't available before,
To offer those who want it, a choice—"*
—TED TURNER

Sick Burns Before Midterms at the CAB Comedyfest

BY JOSEPH FOARD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"I'm excited to be here tonight," exclaimed stand-up comedian Red Scott as he stood on-stage at the Soda Center. "I did some research before I got here — I looked up your school paper. Because if there's one thing I know about any school, it's that nobody reads the school paper."

"This [show], I'd say it was one of the best. They actually got a lot of my old man references, so I had a blast".

On Wednesday, October 10th, the Campus Activities Board held a comedy night in the Soda Center from seven to nine in the evening, featuring opening act Red Scott, highlighted comedian Krista Fatka, and headliner David Studebaker.

"I personally really love come-

dy, and thought, 'Let's have some comedians come and give the students a laugh!'" said Savannah Fox, a member of the Campus Activities Board.

She continues, "so we discussed it as a team, and thought it would be a great, unique event that we haven't done before. So then we just started looking into local comedians in the bay area and found a few".

David Studebaker's performances began as an improvised tango with an audience member set to "I've Had The Time Of My Life," and continued on with a brief ukulele performance on the subject of working in retail. "Y'know, college crowds are interesting because they vary depending on the school," said Studebaker.

He's done shows for numerous colleges at sororities, fraternities, and welcome events, yet he says this show was different- "this one, I'd say it was one of the best. They actually got a lot of my old man references, so I had a blast".

Looking out at the audience,



COMEDIAN RED SCOTT kicks of the CAB Comedyfest this past Wednesday. He was joined by local stand-up comedians David Studebaker and Krista Fatka. (Courtesy of the Campus Activity Board)

Red Scott remarked, "It was pretty good for a college crowd, which is saying something".

"I think it was a good turnout for midterms week," said Fox. "I thought that all three of the comedians were really good and really funny. I think the students thought they were funny as well,

so we'll hopefully bring them back in the spring or make this a bigger annual event".

At this time, no future comedy night events have been announced by the Campus Activities Board, but be sure to check out upcoming campus events by finding CAB on SPOT.

Handling Disparate Political Viewpoints in Class

continued from page 1

usually pretty good."

Nathanson mentions, "We had a conversation in math class a while ago, and it's not part of the plan, alright, but one of the conversations the students were having — reverse racism — was not what we were going to talk about that day, and the student was in very good faith saying a lot of things that were upsetting other students, and I was so impressed that the students and that we, as a group, had a conversation to engage with this subject.

That was respectful towards the student who were saying things that didn't quite sound right to us — so to me or to other people, but it was still in a really nice, you know, respectful way. I think the goal was to try to get some things out in the open so that if you're going to say something that doesn't quite sound right to me I can at least explain to you why I feel the way I do."

Sue Marston, a Graduate Professor with the School of Education, is currently facilitating Seminar 2 this semester. In terms of handling disparate viewpoints,

she says, "it's going to happen. What are our techniques to help to make it a real safe conversation where all voices are heard and respected equally, and that we help to, as Aristotle says, pull each other so that we are in a place where we can accept things — that we're not in a place of anger about it. I think that's an emotion that comes out with politically charged issues sometimes, and when people say things when they're angry it's kind of like the Mytilenian Debate- 'we're gonna kill 'em all!'"

This sense of anger is what many Seminar students have felt at least once in their time at Saint Mary's, and the point isn't to suppress those emotions

— they're natural, but rather to not let it blind and control you and your argument.

"If you want to have a conversation on conflicted issues what you owe is: to keep reminding yourself that the other person is a human person

with dignity as you are — that you don't do anything that essentially detracts from a person's dignity," says politics professor Melinda Thomas. "You don't attack them personally. You can talk about

their ideas, and you can criticize their ideas, but you don't argue with the person in an ad hominem attack. So that's what I use in class participation; and if things start to get really hot under the collar, I go back and do an exercise in dignity theory and re-view the steps, and say, 'now how could we frame this differently.'

I think that the conflict in the Saint Mary's classroom needs to be acknowledged and have a strategy to address it, because my experience is that some students effectively get silenced, while other students who feel stronger, or maybe whose viewpoints are more representative of those around them, talk more, so I'm trying to be sure that a dissenting viewpoint doesn't get suppressed because the person fears that they'll be attacked or fears that they won't be supported. I would say that there is quite a bit of concern in the Saint Mary's classroom among the faculty for ways to reduce conflict; increase participation in a positive way — I would say that's a high priority among faculty."

One common theme which all faculty members stressed was the concept that Seminar professors should try their best to be neutral

in all discussions, that they should play the role of mediator rather than lecturer.

"The ideal is neutrality. The question is can we really be neu-

tral? Is it possible?" asks David Arndt. Arndt is a Seminar professor and also teaches the Jan Term, 'Philosophy as a Way of Life.' "Whether it's possible or not, it's something we should

try to reach, but I'll say it again: the nature of prejudice, bias, preconceptions, perspective is such that they're never fully fully apparent to yourself, and so you should never have a good conscience or be completely certain that you're being neutral because you can't know. And that your biases and preconceptions are probably more apparent to the students than they are to yourself- so it's good when students speak up and object."

The shrinking of political middle ground is laid bare in a discussion-based class such as Seminar, in which political philosophy often characterizes the texts at hand. Saint Mary's Seminar professors are well aware of this and think deeply about how they approach the facilitation of political discourse.

Advice: Ask Dr. Duetime

Dear Dr. Duetime,

With Halloween coming up and everyone searching for costumes, I'm having difficulty telling my friend that her costume isn't culturally appropriate. How do I go about doing this? I feel like if we all get together for Halloween people might get upset, and I don't want to be involved.

Sincerely,
Happy Halloween

Dear Happy Halloween,

Thank you for your submission! With Halloween coming up quickly, it can be easily forgotten that we need to think twice about our costume choices. Props to you for doing so! Even with all of the guidance and checklists about costumes, people often forget.

I would advise that you remain honest with your friend. Letting them know in a kind way is best because for all you know, they may not even be aware that their costume is offensive to others. It is always best

to kindly educate those that may have a different understanding of Halloween, and how their choices to go about celebrating their evening can have negative effects lasting longer than just one night of fun.

Something along the lines of, "Hey, could we chat? I know that this isn't your intention, but I know that others may take it differently" could do just fine. Your friend will probably appreciate you taking the time to check in! After all, you are protecting those who may be hurt by the costume, yourself, and even

your friend.

It is important that we remain responsible for our actions, especially as we are in college and creeping closer to the real world! Also, Halloween is a time for fun and scares, not feelings of hurt. After you talk with your friend, maybe advise them to ask themselves next time, "Who could this be hurting?" and remind themselves to move forward with the idea of if it's questionable, don't do it.

Sincerely,
Dr. Duetime

NEWS

Student Highlights

Showcasing students’ creative works on a fully student-run platform...

A Journey to Remember

BY NATASHA YERRAMILLI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My life has been a rollercoaster ride, with many unexpected twists and turns. The ironic thing is that I had never been on a big rollercoaster until I was in eleventh grade. The ride was so much fun; I still remember it like it was yesterday. When I got on my first rollercoaster, I felt that rush of excitement and fear at the same time. The adrenaline rushed through my veins. My heart was beating so hard and fast that it felt like everyone around me could hear it. As I was riding on the rollercoaster, I realized that my life resembles it. When the rollercoaster is slowly clicking up the steep incline, it is like when I was going to school and being scared and excited with each new experience. Then I unexpectedly plummet down—on the roller coaster you feel like you’re going to go straight into the ground and then you just miss it by a second; in my life, when I suddenly had stomach pains that landed me in the hospital, it felt like I might never recover. In the rollercoaster cart I am jerked to one side until the cart goes straight again. In my life, I got sick and was forced into dealing with it. You know those days when you have a really bad fall and it feels like you might never recover? Or those days that are so wonderful you never want them to end? The day I rode my first rollercoaster was one of

those wonderful days.

I went with my family and a friend to Six Flags Amusement Park one weekend. From about a mile away, we could see massive colorful rollercoasters towering over the park. As we drove into the parking lot, I could feel my body fill with excitement. I could not wait to ride the rollercoasters and stuff my face with junk food. My sister kept worrying about all the things that could go wrong. I explained to her that if something went wrong, someone would sue; then the park would get shut down. That seemed to calm her a bit. The park was packed. I held on to the back of my sister’s shirt so I wouldn’t get lost. The air was filled with the smell of junk food, cotton candy, fried churros, and pretzels. As I walked through the park, I could see booths with souvenirs. I heard people screaming on rollercoasters and people chattering all around me. People were being corralled like cattle to wait in line for the rides. The rollercoasters were so tall that I felt like an ant next to them.

I decided to ride Medusa. When I was little, I rode the dragon rollercoaster at Fairytale Town, but I had never rode a big rollercoaster until this trip to Six Flags. Medusa was a big leap from little kids’ rides at Fairytale Town. Big rollercoasters have unexpected drops and loops. I asked my friend Lucky and my sister to join my dad and me on the rollercoaster. They said,

“NOOOOOOOO, you try it and then tell us how it is.” I waited in line and it felt like forever; as we got closer to the ride I got more and more nervous and terrified. My body was shaking and I felt like the ground beneath me would give out. I felt like I would fall and might never stop falling. This is how I often feel with difficult things in my life. I kept a brave face and kept telling myself to face my fears and everything was going to be okay.

We finally got to the front of the line. I wanted to sit in the middle row of the rollercoaster, not in the front or in the back. We sat in the middle row; the seat belts came down over us, holding us securely. Now I was more excited than nervous. On the right, there was a lady, and on my left, my dad. The lady said, “You better be screaming” and I said I would. The rollercoaster started to go up a steep incline; I heard the clicking of tracks as it went up, it just kept going up and I thought it would never go down. Then, when I least expected it, we sped down the steep incline; there were so many unexpected twists, turns and loops. I felt like I was falling out of my seat; the wind was in my hair, and I was so high up. I was screaming at the top of my lungs, but the wind was going so fast that it was pushing back my mouth. I felt like I was at the top of the world and I loved it. My dad was so calm that he was singing the whole time. When we got off, I felt really dizzy and

light-headed. It was so much fun, I loved it.

I love rollercoasters in the amusement park. Riding a rollercoaster for two minutes is an exciting, thrilling experience. Riding a rollercoaster is very different than having my life resemble one. It is tiring and exhausting living like that all the time. Sometimes I just want things to run smoothly. Everyone has some ups and downs during the course of their lives. I have had many major downs, which makes the ups seem higher. The hardships started from the moment I was born. I was born six weeks early and I had retinoblastoma, which is cancer in the eye, at age one. I also had learning challenges and a knee dislocation by age six. In high school I had undiagnosed stomach pain, which led to several ER visits and many different doctors’ visits and surgery. I also had many wonderful things happen to me. I have a very loving and supportive family. Not just my parents and sister, but also my grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts. I also have some great friends. Most of my happy times are parties, vacations and other events with these people. They have always been there to get me through the many tough times I’ve had. They are like the seat belt on the rollercoaster. They keep me feeling safe and secure when I am falling; I know I can get through anything with their help.

Campus Calendar

Study Salon- Midterms 2018

Tuesday, Oct. 16
4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Museum of Art
Contact:
museum@stmarys-ca.edu

Pathways to Science Series: Dr. Harold Pimentel

Wednesday, Oct. 17
1 p.m.
Soda Center, Claeys Lounge
Contact:
Ameer Thompson, Ph.D.
ant6@stmarys-ca.edu

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, Sept 19
8 p.m.
Chapel
Contact:
Halen Gamino
hac5@stmarys-ca.edu

Student-Led Mass

Sunday, Oct. 21
8 p.m.
Chapel
Contact:
Quang Luu
ql2@stmarys-ca.edu

Book Presentation: Author David Ayon

Monday, Oct. 22
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Galileo 201
Contact:
Professor Myrna Santiago
msantiago@stmarys-ca.edu

One Love Film and Workshop

Tuesday, Oct. 23
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Hagerty Lounge
Contact:
Erin Osanna-Barba
emo3@stmarys-ca.edu

Resume/CL Workshop

Tuesday, Oct. 23
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Soda Center, Claeys Lounge
Contact:
CPDS
(925)631-4600

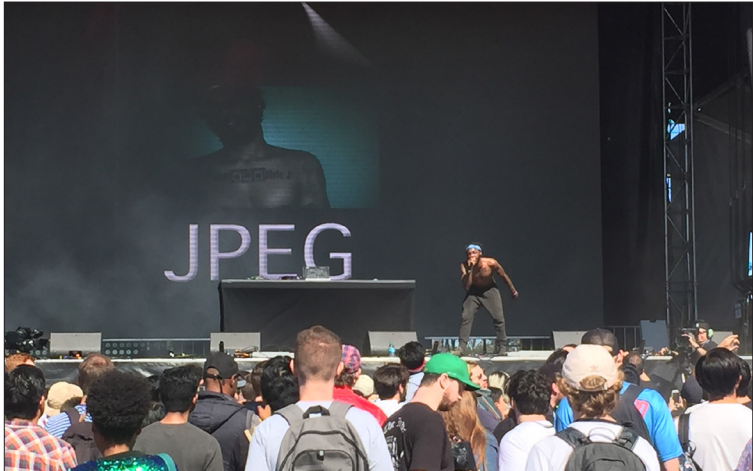
Wake Up Wednesday for Sophomores & Juniors

Wednesday, Oct. 24
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Filippi Hall 334
Contact:
Michael Hoffshire
mdh10@stmarys-ca.edu

Campus Snapshots



NYC-BASED GILLIGAN MOSS gets the crowd pumped with their set. (Terrilyn Ho/COLLEGIAN)



JPEGMAFIA a noise rap artist, spits politically-inspired, alternative verses. (Terrilyn Ho/COLLEGIAN)



MOSES SUMNEY parts the vibe of the crowd with his smooth falsettos. (Terrilyn Ho/COLLEGIAN)



POLO & PAN featured the whistles of a pan flute with sick beats. (Terrilyn Ho/COLLEGIAN)

The Collegian is here for you.

Take apart in our Advice Column

Submissions can be made in the "Newstips" tab on our website:
<http://www.stmaryscollegian.com/newstips/>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
#SMCCOLLEGIAN | [HTTP://WWW.STMARYSCOLLEGIAN.COM/](http://www.stmaryscollegian.com/)

The Campus Calendar column is a service highlighting major events of the week. To include your event, email details to staff@stmaryscollegian.com.

OPINION



COUNTDOWN TO THE END OF DEMOCRACY

BY NATHANIEL SCHULTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

20 DAYS

Midterm elections are November 6, 2018. The Countdown, ahem, counts down to that fateful day with a weekly showcase of one student’s favorite thing about democracy, and one way you can make sure it lasts.

MY FAVORITE THING

My favorite thing about American democracy is that it’s actually a constitutional republic (federal one at that). In that, lies my advice to keep this superb form of governance continuing, vote informed. It matters less of what political persuasion you are (for at the root of both political parties is a philosophical difference) than that you are making informed votes. And frankly if you aren’t informed, don’t vote. I won’t be the one that recommends everyone gets registered and votes. There are many people who shouldn’t vote for two interlocked reasons: they don’t know what they’re voting for, and they simply toe their decided party line, voting D or R all the way down ballot. There are a lot of smart, bookish people whom you would think should vote due to their intelligence in the academic world that I wouldn’t even recommend to vote. I am thinking of a friend of mine, who despite being very smart, did not realize Hillary Clinton was married to President Bill Clinton until I said it. I’m not convinced that everyone should vote.

YOUR WEEKLY CHALLENGE

People should get themselves informed about what’s on their ballot, especially local/state, as no one ever pays attention to that and yet, it is the area that has the most direct impact most of the time. I think of ObamaCare that got its idea from both HillaryCare and RomneyCare at their respective levels. If one can’t get informed because of time or because they honestly don’t understand some of the propositions or politicians, I think it is much more honorable to leave that specific proposition blank, recognizing your limits, than to wildly pick the one with the best name. And at the very least, if that is too uncomfortable to leave it blank, go to one of your friends/mentors whom you trust, who has tried to gather information or pay attention, and follow their lead.

COUNT IT DOWN

Got some words that’ll help us wave democracy goodbye? Come to the next Collegian storyboarding session, Monday, October 22, or shoot us an email at smccollegian@gmail.com.

#whiskey4women: rebuffing Kavanaugh

BY CAROLINE BINLEY
OPINION EDITOR

Hi. I see you’re excited to stand there with your Get Out Of Jail Free card. I understand that because you’re smart or pretty or throw a ball well, you’ve been trained to believe the rest doesn’t matter. This month has probably given you confidence anew: Brett Kavanaugh was smart, so it didn’t matter if he liked beer too much or liked assailing women all the more. He got out of jail free and onto the highest court in the land. He went to Yale and coached girls’ basketball, after all.

I can’t give you a real world warrant that “genius” doesn’t suffice as an excuse to be an asshole. It’s a time-honored tradition for the two to go hand-in-hand: F. Scott Fitzgerald was a drunk; Mahatma Gandhi insulted black South Africans; Elon Musk has enough flaws to fill this page, least of all calling a British diver a “pedo.” Shakespeare was probably a problematic fave, too. I haven’t looked into it. There you go, your permission to be an unchecked tyrant blankets today’s history books and tomorrow’s.

But, like, maybe don’t do it anyway?

First, you’re probably not F. Scott Fitzgerald, Brett Kavanaugh, or Mahatma Gandhi. You’re not that special. Second, neither were they. The men (and some women, I’m sure, don’t @ me) who married brilliance and belligerence were not the only ones capable of great art, scholarship, or protest. Your Get Out Of Jail Free card isn’t as absolute and unyielding as you hoped. Third, it’s just not necessary. These are stories of men who succeeded despite their bad behavior, not because of it.

All of this is to say that I’m really f***ing tired of the tortured genius, drowning them-



BRETT KAVANAUGH is a Yale graduate and girls’ basketball coach who looks like a scared porcupine and, unfortunately, will now decide our fates for years to come. (Courtesy of the New Yorker)

selves in booze, peppering their life with violence, and asking everyone to take pity on or even celebrate their inner torment.

We reached peak celebration back on October 6, when #Beers4Brett became the rallying cry for a victorious right at the moment of Kavanaugh’s confirmation. Creative, measured, and in undoubtedly good taste. I’d like to propose a counterpoint, petty and late to the game as

it may be. Enter stage left, #Whiskey4Women, because we can drink without groping whoever stands nearby. Enter stage right, #Shots4Sotomayor, because I deserve a few at this point, and I deserve them without fear for nearby law students. Is this the part where I have to make clear that the Collegian does not endorse underage drinking? The Collegian does not endorse underage drinking. The Collegian does prefer it to other “collegiate rights of passage” like straight-up rape.

I am unimpressed by you, macho, violent, and unbridled genius. Please pack up and go home. Leave your spot for someone who can get the job done without so much fanfare.

HOT TAKE SNACK BREAK

Grab your favorite snack and see what your peers have to say about the world this week - read ‘em while they’re hot!

SAVE YOUR MONEY; AVOID RIPPED JEANS

Chances are that you have already spent \$25 or more on something that is damaged -- ripped jeans. You may think it’s trendy, but it’s a little absurd if you ask me. It also challenges the fashion norms a bit -- you wear jeans when it’s cold and shorts when it’s hot. But ripped jeans seem to be somewhere in between - they don’t really serve either weather because they’re too warm for the hot weather and too revealing for the cold weather. Also, it just seems a little uncomfortable to have your skin poke out at random parts of your leg. The whole concept of ripped jeans just seems a little bizarre to me.

RAMYA RAMAMOORTHY
STAFF WRITER

LET’S CANCEL DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight savings time does not make much sense to me because if you think about it, you are only gaining one extra hour of sleep for one day. Every day after that still gives you the same number of hours of sleep, because there are still 24 hours in each day regardless of daylight savings time. And then comes the dreaded spring morning when the clocks turn an hour ahead, and the whole nation unites against daylight savings time. I personally don’t think we gain something valuable from daylight savings time, and I feel as though our lifestyles would be more organized if we didn’t have to keep changing our clocks.

RAMYA RAMAMOORTHY
STAFF WRITER

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Uh oh, your hottest take is all dressed up with no where to go. Let it loose. Come to the next Collegian storyboarding session, Monday, October 22, or shoot us an email at smccollegian@gmail.com.

OPINION

Suicide among veterans too common, but help is ready, available

BY JON SEISER
OPINION COLUMNIST

It was a hot and stale June morning. From time to time, the wind blows in from the delta, cooling the dawn to a crisp 68 degrees, but that wasn't the case this morning. I had awakened groggy and slow. I looked at my phone and saw the date, the 14th. With the night still fresh on my breath, I counted the months until my release from the military. It was late morning, and the sweltering heat kept the air conditioner running at full strength, just to keep the temperature of the house at 78 degrees. My wife came home around 11:45 a.m. Her body dragged, and her voice was crippled with silence. Tears of shock strolled steadily onto the carpet.

Our friend had shot himself.

As a veteran, this is an all too common experience; 22 veterans die by suicide every day. That amount of death is unnecessary. The reason for frequent death by suicide is somewhat unknown. I only have what I experienced and witnessed from my time in service and the transition period afterward to explain why veterans choose to be a part of Dante's seventh circle. From what I have experienced in the four years after leaving full-time active duty military, I may be able to give some insight into "why" this happens. When I first left the military, I felt lost and out of place. Getting a job that paid livable wages was difficult. The hardest thing, which drove me to darkness, was being alone. When I left, I felt cut off and detached from both the military and civilians. I didn't understand the lingo, and most people had no idea that now I had options. Options on what to do with my life — options on whether I should work, go to school, travel, move out of California, should I drink water, soda, eat steak, what to cook, how was I going to buy food, where would I get the money and how I would get a job if no one was responding to my resumé. If no one responds, how do I pay bills? If I can't pay bills, what kind of a man am I? I won't be a man, I won't be anything ... I'm nothing ... I can't find a job or pay my bills; no one cares. Everyone hates veterans, that's why I can't get a job. No one cares, why should I? No one cares ... should I look at it? Yeah, I'll look at it. Should I load it? It felt good in my hands, the heft of the medium size frame, the rubber grips and four inch barrel. The six-round cylinder smoothly spun when empty. Would it do the same when loaded? Yes ... I sat there staring at the spinning cylinder of the solid steel double-action revolver.

I almost became a member of the woods eternally pestered by harpies. It is because the military trains and educates individuals for service. We are prepared for war, peace, compassion, and brotherhood. We learn to support



VETERANS die by suicide at a higher rate than civilians; some studies estimate as many as 22 deaths per day. However, help is available. Reach the Veteran Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 or the Concord Vet Center at 1333 Willow Pass Rd Suite #106, Concord, CA. (Courtesy of Center for American Progress)

one another in times of need and stress, but the military does not re-train you to become a civilian. The training I did receive was miniscule. The training was one week long and compiled mostly of sitting and waiting for speakers that say "you're a veteran; everything is awesome; the world is at your fingertips," but it is not true. This adds to the desperate nature of transitioning from service to becoming a civilian. It takes longer than a week for some. For some, it takes years. I am still transitioning almost five years later.

It was there I decided to get help. I was scared to ask because I should be able to handle this on my own. I had all this training, but there was no answer to my depression. I went to the VA hospital; I still go. Yet, many people don't ask for help for fear of appearing weak; maybe some think that others will not care. It is possible these ideas come from negative self thought or thoughts that the VA is overloaded with other veterans' issues. I'm speaking from personal experience: the VA cares, and so do other veterans. Believe

me, we care. You do not have to go through it alone. Please speak to someone, call the Veteran Crisis line: 1-800-273-8255, reach out to a fellow veteran or friend. You can even go to the Concord Vet Center. There, the counselors that you speak with are veterans themselves.

Life is temporary, but death is permanent. Let me or someone else hear your anguish, agony and woes. Let me hold you as tears of empathy drench our garments; let us laugh and find comfort. Let me help carry the weight of your world. Speaking out and seeking help is not weak. It is a strength that holds you to life and keeps you from the darkness in the woods. You are not alone.

You are worth it.

Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

-Dylan Thomas

Seminar discussions demand context, despite program guidelines

BY KA LOUGHMAN
OPINION EDITOR

A few weeks ago, my Seminar 104 class had the pleasure of reading Chinua Achebe's acclaimed novel "Things Fall Apart," a stunning portrait of pre-colonial life in Nigeria that follows protagonist Okonkwo through his search for glory and prosperity. The novel is part of the SEM104 canon because it inspires us to discuss important issues such as colonialism, the negative effects of masculinity and patriarchy and subsequent dehumanization of women, and the legitimization of non-Western ways of thought. However, because of the Seminar program's failure to emphasize the importance of context, my class's discussions were not able to reach total fruition.

As a fourth-year English major, I am well-aware of the importance of context when reading and analyzing a body of work. I believe it impossible to truly make a deep



COLLEGIATE SEMINAR is ideally a course for students to discuss the great books, but without knowledge of the context in which those books were written, discussions fall flat. (Courtesy of The Collegian)

Lack of context has always been a roadblock for fruitful class discussion. Arguably, all of the texts in the Seminar canon are rich in meaningful themes - but when we go into a work blindly, we don't always recognize them.

connection with a text and ask valuable questions about it without knowing the context in which the work was written. When we approach texts blindly, we know nothing about the intended purpose of the work, the time period in which it was written, even little things such as character name pronunciation, which prevents us from understanding the gravity and importance of the work as we read it. My class was woefully unprepared to discuss "Things Fall Apart" because we were unfamiliar with its context which, unfortunately, prevented us from having more than a shallow

conversation about Okonkwo's hopes and motivations on that first day.

The importance placed on approaching texts blindly also provided a disservice to my class when it came to pronouncing the names of the characters in "Things Fall Apart." The Igbo names — which naturally look different than the names used in the Western texts we have studied — intimidated my class when it came to pronunciation. This prevented us from affording full humanity and respect to Achebe's characters. I would not be surprised if other SEM104 courses run into this problem. We should

have been provided with a name pronunciation guide before reading the text.

In my past Seminar courses, lack of context has always been a roadblock for fruitful class discussion. Arguably all of the texts in the Seminar canon are rich in meaningful themes — but when we go into a work blindly, we don't always recognize them. Students do come to their own original conclusions about the text without context, but often these conclusions are too far off base from the intended purpose of the text and do not contribute to a meaningful and productive discussion. This lack of understanding undermines the entire purpose of the Seminar program, which is to consider and discuss the groundbreaking ideas these texts were intended to propose.

I understand the Seminar program's stance on context - if we familiarize ourselves with the author's motivation for writing the text, it supposedly prevents us from coming to our own conclusions and renders discussion stagnant. However, I think we as students should be given a bit more credit. We can understand the context of a work and still find ourselves capable of creating interpretive questions about the text regarding its effect on ourselves the world around us. In fact, that context can help us reach a greater understanding of the text and allow us to have even deeper discussions that allow everyone to learn and grow.

I think the Seminar program should reconsider its stance on context, because our conversations in Seminar can always be improved upon.

CULTURE

“A Star is Born” Far From Shallow



BRADLEY COOPER AND LADY GAGA perform a duet in their film “A Star is Born,” which is currently out in theatres. (Courtesy of Variety)

BY ISABELLA FERRANTE
STAFF WRITER

This was Lady Gaga’s first time acting in a feature film; however, you would never know that from the amazing job that she did. Her performance as an aspiring singer was extremely well done. I loved seeing Lady Gaga in a completely different light. At first, it was strange seeing her in minimal makeup and light brown hair. Changing up Lady Gaga’s regular visage to her polar opposite made her character that much more believable. Lady Gaga has been very open to the public about her struggles with self-esteem, self-acceptance, and bullying. I loved how the movie touched on that large theme in an authentic and sincere way. Lady Gaga did a great job channeling her past struggles into the character, and I think it

will resonate with a lot of people. My favorite part of this movie was definitely the music. After seeing the movie, the first thing I did was download the soundtrack. Surprisingly, I enjoyed Bradley Cooper’s voice, and I thought his voice fit the look of the character. As a country music fan, I liked how Cooper’s voice had a country sound as well as a rock n’roll vibe. “Maybe It’s Time” was a catchy country-influenced song. Every time that song played throughout the movie I was humming along, and it sounded very authentic coming from Cooper’s character. We all knew that Lady Gaga had a phenomenal voice before the movie came out. This movie allowed her voice and musical talents to thrive. “Always Remember Us This Way” was a song that was different sounding than what we

are used to hearing from Lady Gaga. It was a slower ballad that she performed flawlessly in the movie. My personal favorite song — sung by both Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper — was “Shallow.” Lady Gaga’s amazing voice was showcased in her solo part of the song. When they performed it in the movie, I felt like I was listening to it firsthand and I almost forgot I was in the movie theater. Their voices went nicely together in the song and they sang together seamlessly. Overall, I was captivated by the story told in this movie. I completely forgot that there was an outside world for two hours. I was able to laugh, cry, and feel everything that the characters were feeling as the movie progressed. I would definitely recommend this movie, and I know I will be watching it again.

Oakland First Fridays

BY TOM R. MUYUNGA-MUKASA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The High Potential Program (HP) provided me the opportunity to look at my college days as a fulfilling and well-rounded experience. The program is both fun and a game changer. For instance, I have plans to commit to a reading plan. I have laid out a plan to meet with my advisor on a regular basis for support. HP puts on short, invigorating workshops to help students acquire communication and life planning skills. That is not all, the HP Program also provides opportunities for students to attend out-of-campus events. I happened to be part of the HP student group who went to Oakland’s “First Fridays” for the month of October.

As a matter of fact, I realized my three firsts then. It was my first HP “First Fridays,” ever. It was the first “First Fridays” of 2018 in Oakland. It was my first time to be out on a Friday with a few days until midterms and I still danced until I was sore. I enjoyed myself so much, and I have made the Oakland “First Fridays” part of my winding down prescription. The DJ played very popular hits back to back and the crowds danced to each and every one. XXXTentacion’s “Orlando” was followed immediately by Taylor Swift’s “Temptation” and many others. My favorite and that of many revelers’ was Mr. C The Slide Man’s “Cha Cha Slide.” I can still hear the music and vividly see a group of random people going through the moves.

“.....everybody clap your hands!
Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap your hands!
Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap your hands!
Alright now, we’re going to do the basic step!

To the left!
Take it back now, y’all!
One hop this time!
Right foot, let’s stomp!
Left foot, let’s stomp!
Cha Cha real smooth!....”

The music, the rhythm, and the joy all worked magic as the revelers kept the pace. The reverberating percussion kept us jamming. Looking down from a high stage, the DJs were generous and kept pumping out tunes. The bright strobes’ flashing and blinding beams pierced Oakland’s dark night, and the music was playing so loudly that the earth shook. The homeboys slouching on the walls of closed shops, some smoking whatever, headgear pulled at different angles, were very much conspicuous. They kept nodding in silent salutation, a code only known to the initiated. Well, we hip-hop aficionados were busy shaking our bodies, and all of us were feeling cool. The HP Program was also joined by other organizations, e.g., Black Brothas, Black Sistas as well as SMC students who came individually. This is a popular go-to event for many students. The organizations making it possible for students to attend “First Fridays” are making the definition of community have a fuller meaning. I saw people dancing together so well. In my mind, I almost thought they knew each other and were from the same village (read: neighborhood). All in all, the joy was palpable, the police was community — convivial and we were so filled with sense of community. The experience left me so revitalized and energized that when I got back to SMC, I was ready to tackle midterms. Now, where are those two assignments I need to complete? Come on bring them on!

Look What You Made Her Do: Taylor Swift Goes Political

BY VICTORIA VIDALES
CULTURE COLUMNIST

Pop and country music star Taylor Swift is usually in the news for her recent radio hits, but on Oct. 9, she made headlines for her other voice: her political one. Swift posted a lengthy message on Instagram declaring publicly her vote for Democratic candidates Phil Bredeesen and Jim Cooper for the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, in her home state of Tennessee.

In the past, Swift has kept mum on her political beliefs. She has now decided to speak out because she believes that it is essential for people to vote, especially since the 2018 midterm elections are highly emotional for all.

Characteristically, Swift has chosen to keep her political life private, choosing instead to promote her projects rather than her political views. In her post, she wrote: “In the past I’ve been reluctant to publicly voice my political opinions, but due to several events in my life and in the world in the past two years, I feel very differently about that now.” Swift felt that it was necessary for her to use her platform to encourage people to vote, especially to vote for a candidate who “most closely represents [their] values.”

Swift’s lengthy Instagram post was in response to the large lead



TAYLOR SWIFT won Artist of the Year at the American Music Awards, where she again encouraged fans to vote. (Courtesy of Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

that Republican Senate candidate Marsha Blackburn has over Democratic candidate Phil Bredeesen. Congresswoman Blackburn has been vocal against many progressive rights, including voting against equal pay for women, the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act, and same-sex marriage. For Swift, these are all important issues, and therefore, she believes that she cannot support Marsha Blackburn.

Swift has been met with severe criticism from both conservatives and liberals. Conservatives have criticized Swift for supporting a liberal candidate, while liberals

have argued that she is speaking up too late. Some members of the public have claimed that Swift should stick to talking about her music, while others have praised her for taking a stand. Despite the criticism, Swift received over two million likes on Instagram. According to “The Washington Post,” since Swift’s post, over 160,000 people have registered to vote.

While some people may feel that entertainers should stay silent about their political views, it is important for people to remember that entertainers are citizens with civic duties, too, and they have the

right to publicly express who they want to vote for. The laws that the government imposes affect them just as much as they do for the average everyday worker. They cannot, and rather, should not be expected to keep their personal views out of the spotlight.

For many entertainers, they see their jobs as an opportunity to promote issues that they are passionate about. For Swift, the issues that she believes in are very important to her, and by speaking out, she is risking her career. However, it should be pointed out that Swift did not encourage people to vote for a

particular candidate. She simply encouraged people to vote for the candidates who reflect their values.

Right now, the political stage has been even more controversial than usual. The political events in this country have been deeply emotional. It seems as though politics has shifted away from civil collaborations among individuals with differing opinions to hostile debates where winning is more important than doing the right thing. Loyalty to party over country has become an unspoken and acceptable practice for people to follow now.

Several Americans have realized the desperate times that this country is in, which causes them to speak out about their political beliefs. People do not have to be in the public eye to make a difference. All they have to do is vote.

In the United States, no one is forced to vote if they do not want to. Americans have the right to choose to vote or not to vote. Swift is urging people to vote based on what they believe is right, not about what their political party politicians tell them is right. The midterm elections are going to be intense, and it is up to eligible Americans to decide their leadership.

Editors’ note: Make Taylor Swift proud of you and register to vote. The last day to register to vote is October 22, 2018.

SPORTS

2018 QB Comparisons: Young vs. Old

BY MATT MCFETRIDGE
STAFF SPORTS EDITOR

In the NFL, the position of quarterback is arguably the hardest in the league. One bad game by any QB can result in articles and analysis of why the given player should be benched. And as seen recently with Eli Manning, teammates often come out publicly to criticize their play. However, many quarterbacks have found success or are showing promise in their starts so far this season. The “young” quarterbacks at the focus of this article are those under 30 years old with a maximum of three years in the NFL. The “old” quarterbacks focused on are those over the age of 30.



Jared Goff

6' 4" 222 lbs
Record through 5 games:
5-0
Stats through 5 games:
Completion % - 72.3
Passing Yards - 1727
Passing TDs - 12
Passing INTs - 4
Rushing yards - 16
Rushing Y/A - 2.8
Rushing TDs - 0

Matt Ryan

6' 4" 217 lbs
Record through 5 games:
1-4
Stats through 5 games:
Completion % - 68.3
Passing Yards - 1601
Passing TDs - 11
Passing INTs - 2
Rushing yards - 53
Rushing Y/A - 4.1
Rushing TDs - 2



Patrick Mahomes

6' 3" 230 lbs
Record through 5 games:
5-0
Stats through 5 games:
Completion % - 63.6
Passing Yards - 1513
Passing TDs - 14
Passing INTs - 2
Rushing yards - 66
Rushing Y/A - 3.0
Rushing TDs - 0

Aaron Rodgers

6' 2" 225 lbs
Record through 5 games:
2-2-1
Stats through 5 games:
Completion % - 63
Passing Yards - 1572
Passing TDs - 10
Passing INTs - 1
Rushing yards - 77
Rushing Y/A - 5.5
Rushing TDs - 0

Similar Attributes:

There are three attributes that Rodgers and Mahomes share as Quarterbacks. Incredible arm strength, great mobility, and they're both clutch performers. With multiple game winning Hail Mary tosses, it's no secret that Rodgers has a cannon of an arm. And although his longest pass of the year is only 58 yards, Mahomes had TD strikes in college of 81, 82, and 90 yards. Mobility is a big plus for the QB's as well, both with over 60 yards rushing and Mahomes' with two ground TD's. Lastly, they both turn it on in the clutch. Rodgers has shown this ability as mentioned before with timely Hail Mary passes. Mahomes also showed his poise against the Broncos, leading the Chiefs to a fourth quarter score with a minute thirty to go. Mahomes certainly has proved his worth by leading the Chiefs undefeated thus far, and Rodgers hopes to get his Packers rolling.



Baker Mayfield

6' 1" 215 lbs
Record through 5 games:
2-2-1
Stats through 5 games
(only 3 played):
Completion % - 58.9
Passing Yards - 838
Passing TDs - 3
Passing INTs - 3
Rushing yards - 31
Rushing Y/A - 3.9
Rushing TDs - 0
*one 2 pt. conversion catch

Russell Wilson

5' 11" 215 lbs
Record through 5 games:
2-3
Stats through 5 games:
Completion % - 62.7
Passing Yards - 1086
Passing TDs - 10
Passing INTs - 3
Rushing yards - 42
Rushing Y/A - 3.8
Rushing TDs - 0



Josh Rosen

6' 4" 218 lbs
Record through 5 games:
1-4
Stats through 5 games (only 3 played):
Completion % - 49.2
Passing Yards - 386
Passing TDs - 2
Passing INTs - 1
Rushing yards - 22
Rushing Y/A - 3.7
Rushing TDs - 0

Joe Flacco

6' 6" 245 lbs
Record through 5 games:
3-2
Stats through 5 games:
Completion % - 61.2
Passing Yards - 1550
Passing TDs - 8
Passing INTs - 3
Rushing yards - 23
Rushing Y/A - 1.8
Rushing TDs - 0

Similar Attributes:

As both are traditional non-running Quarterbacks, Flacco and Rosen are a good match. However, with virtually one game of stats this season, we go to Rosen's career at UCLA to compare with Flacco. Like Flacco, Rosen typically threw on average 20 touchdowns per year, with about 10 INTs to go with it. Keys to these QB's successful play are having stout offensive lines and explosive receivers. Unfortunately for Rosen, he inherited a very poor offensive line. He also lacks serious threats at receiver with Larry Fitzgerald nearing an end and Christian Kirk not exactly wowing the league quite yet. But even without offensive threats or a solid O-line, the Cardinals won their first game under Rosen and look to win more. As for the Ravens, the addition of Heisman trophy winner Lamar Jackson puts pressure on Flacco to perform well.

Sports this week

VOLLEYBALL

@University of San Francisco
Thursday, October 18th @ 7pm

@ Santa Clara University,
October 20th @ 1pm



MEN'S SOCCER

vs. Santa Clara University,
October 21st @ 1pm



WOMEN'S SOCCER

@ Santa Clara University,
October 14th @ 1pm

vs. University of San Diego,
October 18th @ 3:30pm



WOMEN'S TENNIS

ITA Regional Championship
October 19th-22



SPORTS

Jimmy Butler torments T-Wolves organization

BY NATE POST
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This has been a long offseason for both Jimmy Butler and the Minnesota Timberwolves to say the least. It all started after the T-Wolves lost their playoff series against the Houston Rockets. After the conclusion of their final game, Butler decided to fly home by himself instead of with the team. No one thought too much of this at the time, but this would be the first of many instances throughout the offseason of Butler showing his frustration.

Not too long after the season ended, there were many reports about Butler requesting a trade. He is not allowed to say this directly in a interview or else he will be heavily fined, but many reporters reported this as a topic. Butler being a highly thought of player in the league (averaging just over 22 points per game last season and making the All-Defensive First Team) can bring extreme value to a team if the fit is right. When asked about why he was frustrated with his team, he was extremely vocal in saying that he did not appreciate the young players effort. He mentioned names like Andrew Wiggins and Karl Anthony Towns when making these comments. As this continued throughout the summer, news throughout the NBA shied viewers away from what was happening in Minnesota.



JIMMY BUTLER and Minnesota Timberwolves have had a long and tumultuous offseason. Whether or not he'll play with them for the season opener is still up in the air. (Courtesy ofGQ)

As the season nears, a trade still has not taken place. Teams like the Miami Heat have been in the conversation, but they did not offer enough in return for Butler for the Timberwolves to budge. Even if Butler may have requested a trade, it does not mean the Timberwolves have to follow through on making a deal.

All this buzz escalated a few days ago when Butler finally reported to practice with the regular season starting in just under a

week. All his emotions built up over the summer and he let them all out at once. Throughout practice, he was reportedly yelling at teammates, the coaches, and upper management, even telling the general manager “You f***ing need me.” After practice, Jimmy met with the reporter Rachel Nichols to talk about what had taken place. In that interview, he was very clear about how he is always going to be honest in everything he says. When asked if that

was the best way to handle it, he admitted that it probably wasn’t however it is what happened and he felt he got his point across.

Jimmy reported once again to practice the next day, which ended in a “players only” meeting led by him. Nothing has been found about what was said or done during that meeting (which should be the case), but I am sure anyone can guess that it was not a calm scene. With their first game Wednesday vs. the San Antonio Spurs, a lot

has to be figured out. Will Butler be traded? Will he start the season with the Timberwolves? Those are only a few questions that need to be answered before game one. As a fan of basketball, this is where you sit back and let the situation unfold before your eyes.

With the media nowadays almost everything is reported out to the public. It is hard for these players to find much privacy, especially when it comes to anything involving their job.

How Latinos in California Transformed Politics in America

POWER SHIFT

ALATORRE
CEDILLO
CONTRERAS
DURAZO
MOLINA
POLANCO
ROYBAL
A.TORRES
E.TORRES
VILLARAIGOSA

FOREWORD BY LEON PANETTA

George L. Pla

David R. Ayón

INSTITUTE FOR LATINO AND
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
PRESENTS:

"POWER SHIFT: HOW
LATINOS IN CALIFORNIA
TRANSFORMED POLITICS
IN AMERICA"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018 -
6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.
GALILEO HALL, 201

CONTACT MARÍA LUISA RUIZ FOR MORE INFORMATION